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Letter dated 15 May 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the decisions of the extraordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism between the Sudan and South Sudan, held in Addis Ababa on 14 and 15 May 2017 (see annex).

Having brought this matter to your attention, I would appreciate if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Magdi Ahmed Mofadal **Elnour**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 15 May 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Decisions of the extraordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism held in Addis Ababa on 14 and 15 May 2017

1. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism met in Addis Ababa in an extraordinary session on 14 and 15 May 2017 under the facilitation of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan and South Sudan.

2. The meeting was chaired by H.E. President Abdulsalami A. Abubakar for the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. The delegation of the Government of the Sudan was led by General Imad-Eddin Mustafa Adawi, Chief of Joint Staff of the Sudan Armed Forces, while the delegation of the Government of South Sudan was led by General James Anjogo Mawut, Chief of General Staff of the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

3. The meeting considered the implementation of the decisions taken during the last extraordinary meeting, which was held on 14 October 2015, in Addis Ababa, and subsequent ordinary session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of 5 June 2016. The High-level Implementation Panel noted that it was necessary to convene this meeting because of the slow implementation of the resolutions of the Khartoum meeting, particularly the activation of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the border crossing corridors.

4. In this regard, the High-level Implementation Panel invited the two parties to brief on the efforts they have exerted towards implementing the above-mentioned agreements. They also confirmed that they have experienced several challenges in implementing various parts of the decisions they took during the ordinary sessions of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, held on 5 June 2016, and the meeting of the Joint Security Committee held from 27 to 30 September 2016, and in particular the activities of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

5. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism also received a report from the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) Force Commander, which was presented by Brigadier General Gebrekidan Yebiyo, the head of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, on the status of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and the Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The report highlighted a number of challenges, including poor infrastructure along the Border Zone, non-establishment of the team-sites, slow bureaucratic processes involved in obtaining approval and permission for aerial monitoring missions and the fact that ground monitoring missions had not commenced.

6. Following the Force Commander's report, UNISFA presented a detailed operational plan, which emphasized the role and responsibilities of the two Governments in facilitating the work of UNISFA. The plan also recommended initiating ground monitoring missions, improving the efficiency of the aerial monitoring missions, establishment of four team sites, activation of four border crossing points, and inviting the African Union Border Programme Technical Team to mark the coordinates of the border crossing points. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism reflected on the report and endorsed its findings and recommendations, which will form the basis for accelerating the implementation of the decisions of 14 October 2015 and its subsequent ordinary meeting of 5 June 2016.

7. The parties expressed appreciation to the international community for the financial and technical support towards the realization of the mandate of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism. This is to facilitate smooth cooperation on security and political issues particularly in relation to their common border through

the deployment of UNISFA and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. They took note of the concerns regarding the slow implementation of the previous decisions, as discussed at the meeting of the United Nations Security Council held on 12 May 2017.

8. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism stressed the centrality of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism for the peace and security of the Sudan and South Sudan. They pointed out that the absence of the Verification and Monitoring Mechanism would have a detrimental effect on stability along the border and in both countries as a whole. In this regard, the meeting resolved that the parties must urgently take practical steps to activate the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and facilitate its work. These include the establishment of four team sites, to be completed by September 2017; commitment to freedom of movement for all personnel of the Mechanism; the immediate commencement of ground monitoring missions; authorization of the use of the helipad in Gok Machar; acceleration of the process of approvals for aerial monitoring missions; and granting landing clearance for aerial monitoring missions, to be effective immediately within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.

9. The meeting also requested UNISFA to enhance the technological capability for Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism equipment to effectively conduct aerial monitoring missions.

10. The parties reiterated their commitment to remove any impediments as identified by UNISFA towards the smooth and full implementation of the decisions of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism.

11. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism directed the Joint Security Committee to implement its decisions of 30 September 2016 and remove obstacles as identified by UNISFA. The Committee shall meet in Khartoum within three weeks of the signing of these decisions to consider the alleged presence of armed forces north or south of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. The Committee will report to the Joint Political and Security Mechanism at its next ordinary session.

12. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism also directed the two Chiefs of Staff to form the ad hoc committee on the 14 Mile Area within three weeks of the signing of these decisions.

13. The next ordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism will take place within 45 days of the signing of these decisions in Juba, South Sudan. This session will send its decisions and a report on the implementation of these processes to the African Union High-level Implementation Panel after its meeting. In the event that the meeting does not take place as scheduled, the Panel will convene an extraordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism.

Done in Addis Ababa, this 15th Day of May, 2017:

(*Signed*) General Imad-Eddin M. **Adawi**	(*Signed*) General James Ajongo **Mawut**
Chief of Joint Staff	Chief of General Staff
Sudan Armed Forces	Sudan People's Liberation Army
The Republic of the Sudan	The Republic of South Sudan

Witnessed by:

(*Signed*) H.E. General Abdulsalami A. **Abubakar**
for
African Union High-level Implementation Panel